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Dear Matt,

Further to my letter of 20 Jan, I must tell you that my source on Soviet CW affairs professed scepticism about the Russians being taught to mask-up whenever there is incoming artillery fire. He cited, as I did to you, that VV piece. But he would look around more for me. He did remark that current NATO-wide practice is to mask not only on incoming artillery fire but also on arrival of low-flying aircraft. I wasn't clear whether this was done always or only under conditions of state Amber alert. Do you know ?

I enclose a copy of a piece which this person has written on CB defence for the next edition of Soviet Army Review Annual, due out in the summer sometime. Sorry about the scribbles .

He is convinced that the Russians value CW very highly. But whether this is a result of careful analysis or, instead, a gut reaction stemming from the nature of his working environment I'm not sure. The principal reason he gave for the Russian evaluation was the antitank defence suppression argument. From Soviet military writings, defector reports, &c he has the impression that the Soviets are, just now, enormously concerned about NATO antitank capacities which they see as the chief threat to Soviet battlefield dominance; ergo, ways of countering that threat will be highly valued.

As ever,

J P Perry Robinson

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